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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : சென்னைக்கு வெளியில் இருக்கும் ஆஸ்பத்திரிகளில் சாதாரணமாகச் சாயங்காலம் போய்ப் பார்க்கலாம். அவசரமாக இருந்து பார்க்கவேண்டுமானால், வார்டு டாக்டர் பர்மிஷனில் போகலாம். சென்னையில் 'பாஸ்' கொடுக்கிறார்கள். அந்த 'பாஸ்' பிரகாரம் வரவேண்டுமென்று இருக்கிறது. ஆனால் நடைமுறையில் அப்படி இல்லாமலும் நடக்கிறது.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact that on account of unrestricted number of visitors being allowed into the hospital during the visiting hours, the hospitals become overcrowded and the visitors smuggle into the hospital diet to people who are on specific diet authorized by the doctors?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : My information is, if at all diet is smuggled, it is not by the visitors. There are local people who do this. (Laughter.)

SRI K. KAMALAKANNAN : Does the Hon. Minister know that the visitors are undergoing great hardship because they are made to stand at the gate for hours together by the gate-keepers?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : If a pass is intended to be given and if the visitor produces the pass, he will be straightway admitted. But some people want to get in without having a pass. So, naturally there is bargaining there. (Laughter.) That may take some time.

SRI K. KAMALAKANNAN : Is there not any possible way of avoiding such bargaining?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Yes, we constantly change the peons, because the peons take some time to develop that technique.

Buckingham Canal

* 321 *Q*.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. Minister for Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the annual maintenance charges for the upkeep of the Buckingham Canal;

(*b*) the annual collection of licence fees; and

(*c*) the number of encroachers on the banks of the canal and the steps taken for the removal of the encroachers within the State limits?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : (*a*) & (*b*) A statement [a] showing the annual maintenance charges incurred on the upkeep of the Buckingham Canal from the years 1957–58 to 1960–61 and the licence fees collected during the same period is placed on the table of the House.

(*c*) There are nine encroachments on the banks on the canal within city limits. A list of encroachers has been prepared by Chief Engineer (Irrigation) and sent to the Collector of Madras for taking action to evict the slum dwellers at the appropriate time.

[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 391 infra.

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DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact that the erosion of soil in the canal is entirely due to the encroachers?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : To prevent this we have asked the Collector to evict them as early as possible and give them alternative sites.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Have any legal proceedings been taken so far against these encroachers?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : Some have been removed by the Revenue Department but it is not possible to completely remove all the slums along the canal margin as the slum dwellers have necessarily to be provided with alternative sites. Therefore, now and then we are asking the Collector to evict the encroachers.

VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : இந்தக் கால்வாயைப் பராமரித்து வருவதால் செலவினம் அதிகமாகப்போகிறதாகத் தெரிகிறது. அதனால் அதை ஆழப்படுத்தி அதில் விசைப் படகுகள் விட்டால், அதன் மூலம் அந்தச் செலவை ஈடு செய்யலாம் என்ற காரணத்தால், அதற்கு ஏதாவது திட்டமிட அரசாங்கம் யோசிக்குமா?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : ஆழப்படுத்தி நல்ல முறையில் வைப்பதற்கு திட்டமிருக்கிறது.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : May I know whether the silting of the canal is due to these encroachments and may I know whether the Government will consider the desirability of evicting these encroachers as early as possible in the public interest?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : The Government recently entrusted the task of removal of these slum-dwellers from their habitation to the State Housing Board after it became a Statutory body on 1st April 1961. And the Collector of Madras will take action for the eviction of these slum-dwellers at the appropriate time.

Bridges

* 322 Q.—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Works be pleased to state—

(a) the number of bridges damaged (i) from Villupuram to Tindivanam on the Trunk Road and (ii) from Cuddalore to Vridhachalam; and

(b) whether the damaged bridges have been repaired?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : (a) Five bridges on portion of the Trunk Road from Villupuram to Tindivanam and four bridges on Cuddalore-Vridhachalam road.

(b) Yes, Sir.